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H. A. G. Lee Esq —
or
Stud. Cliff
Oregon

12138

C. E. Pickett

Received at Nisqually

March 15th 1848

Copied Sept 9, 1916

[illegible]

10087

Honolulu H. I.
9th Aug 72 A.R.

Dear Lee.

I merely write you to give evidence of my being still somewhere on this little globe of ours, and not rapt off to Paradise. I have been studying practical geology for which this is a fine field - Volcanos Mountains, Coraline formations &c. These islands as in fact all in the Pacific have been thrown up by volcanic action from the bottom of this great Ocean. The Oldest of this group Kauai is perhaps 50.000 years old. Their ages lessen as we go east.

My principal occupation however has been diving into the character of the biped race of animals inhabiting them, composed principally of Kanakas - indigenous, and Yankees exotics. My conclusions are that both are quite an inferior species of this genus, and sadly require a little contact with our Western Stock in order to enlighten their understanding & mend their morals. There are though some clever fellows there of the latter sort, but God help the Christianized nations, for the Missionaries have cant or rather they have not done it, as they are now worse in character & condition than before their holy modern apostles came amongst them. The fact is this. I have at last arrived at the conclusion I have been so long aiming ~~at~~ to get to. That religions of all sort & particularly the Christian, are wholy & totally false, a bund fabulous and humbug. But no where on the globe, is such a farce made, of the Jesus Christ order as at these islands. Tis a perfect failure and all the flaming reports sent home, by these mercenary Gospel spreaders sent there, are about as true as those formally sent from Oregon. Farther than this tis unnecessary to explain to you. I dont believe, there is a single Kanaka in the Pacific Ocean, who believes in the doctrine they teach, at any rate, they are not imbued with the correct moral essence of it so as to practice any of the Christian virtues

So you have let little George into the guber-
natorial seat again. But I don't know that
it matters much whether he or Limpy was
successful. I pity your condition, that
you can't as yet find better men for your
territory than these. Why did you not
come out yourself? I should have supported you
had I been there. ~~And~~ But if Mr or [illegible] else had
been started against these two little dumpy
legged quarter horses, I should have entered
the track myself either as [illegible] or [illegible] be
& should have distanced them both.

I shall leave for California in a month
whence you & Cliff must write me fully
all your news, past, present & prospective
by. The grand staples of these Islands
are Clap & Pox. I have lived a number
months, but not having either article, shall
not take any away with me. The character
of the Native Population may be summed up
in two words. They are all whores & rogues.
Not an honest man or a virtuous woman
amongst them from the King & queen down.
Address me at Sonoma. C. E. Pickett

C. E. Pickett

San Francisco - A. C.
Dec 7 2 A. R.

Dear Lee

Your kind and interesting letter of last month in answer to mine from Honolulu, has been received and under circumstances that give rise to no small emotions of friendship towards you, as you are one of the few in Oregon to whom I have written, that deigns to reciprocate and answer my friendly missiles.

Of Priff however I have most to complain; as from our associations in Oregon - being companions in poverty and hard times there for a season - ascending together from our almost shirtless condition - matching our minds in friendly combat in the polemical arena and parting in kindness and friendship from him with undiminished esteem for his character, after several years acquaintance, - I had expected better treatment from him; for he has not only refused to answer my numerous letters to him, but abused the accepted trust reposed in him, as my friend and accustomed agent for attending to my business and interests in Oregon forwarding me letters &c; by joining, as I am led to believe a clique of enemies to me, residing in and about Oregon city; and to add to his indifference and insults, - allows two ships direct from there here to come off without sending my letters from the States, which I learn are in his hands. He has no excuse under the head of expecting me up soon, for he might have known that even has I gone ~~in the event of my going~~, I should have wanted these letters in order to send back answers by the Whiton, which he knew was going home. I have as you know heard nothing from friends & relatives for years; and now it will be months before I get them because of this shameful treatment

I wish Prigg to act no longer in the capacity promised me. If he chooses to be my enemy, for which I never gave him cause, but rather the contrary, he is welcome to pursue his course.

The disposition I have made of my Indian Agen Commission, you will perhaps sanction, when you read my letter to the governor on the subject, and hear some other reasons I shall give in this, for declining the honor of serving you in the office.

Many in Oregon are aware of my taking an active part in exposing Dr White's character and improper acts to the President, which has proved effectual in preventing his return upon you in this or some other office, and mainly, as I have been informed by gentlemen in this country, through my instrumentality.

The delicacy I should feel in taking his place after this, you must be aware would be great.

Having not the slightest idea of receiving an appointment to *any* office in Oregon; I left that country with the full intent of going back *home*, as I never looked upon or felt Oregon to be such. And though I took California, as I intended taking other countries in my route thither; yet it was my full determination to keep on; and remained here three months and within a short time of my intended departure, ere I finally concluded to make it my home. 'Tis true my restless brain and somewhat wild, impulsive and reckless nature, has given me erratic habits; but California, being an open extended, beautiful and variegated country, with abundance of game and variety of scenery, with which to feed my excited fancy and give employment to roving propensities; — I shall be able to *settle* here, and remain within the bounds of the territory — at least for some years

Those three months of blue devils, and uncertainty about leaving, for which I had long been longing — spent in Oregon City the gloomy winter preceding my departure; made such a deep impress on my memory; that the bare ideas of going back, even to fill the highest office the President or people there may ever have it in their power to bestow; — brings on such a fit of the horrors, that I am compelled immediately to take a draught of the ambrosial juice, extracted from the unsurpassed grapes of our sunny southern clime, — in order to ~~[illegible]~~ soothe my excited feelings, restore equanimity of temperament, and prevent a suicidal catastrophe. I shall smuggle you a a few bottles of this Australian aqua vitae into Oregon another time; as none is for sale in town at present. — But don't let your rabid teetotalers know who sent it, or else it will be arrayed in the list of criminal charges, against my character, to be sent on to the President (if such has not already been done) to effect my removal from office. Such for instance as being guilty of highway robbery and murder on the plains of Mo.!!!! Stealing salt tongues!!! forging a letter of introduction to the Hudsons Bay Co!!! Cheating a poor widow woman out of a keg of butter to speculate on!!!! picking up small things about a house!!!!!! lying and — but the catalogue is rather lengthy so I,ll stop.

To the vulgar, tin peddling, shaving, picayune shirttail "aristocracy" "aristocracy" and their tools about Oregon City, I am mainly indebted for the spread and continuance of their flattering notices and qualifications attached to my character.

Of all the disgusting bipeds, I ever had the luck to meet with; — this upstart Yankee & Cockney Canaille stand foremost; and whilst leading my poor, but proud and independant log cabin life; I could, but contrast the wide difference between myself and these whenever I came in contact with the animals; and amuse myself secretly in thinking how differently and falsely they viewed the same subject. —

Not that I looked down upon them ~~with contempt~~ because of what I knew, had been the wide separation in our relative rank and connection in society in the land from whence we came; but by reason of the consciousness of being their superior in all that really makes the man; — intellect, honor, morality honesty and independance. I speak thus harshly of but few, — though in the category must be added a small sprinkling of those sappy headed saints and lying, hypocritical Apostles or hired gospel spreaders, whose ranks we did the Lord service, by breaking and routing soon after getting into Oregon.

Bye, the bye, this brings me to speak of the "State of religion" now in Oregon. It seems you are reviving the humbuggery in this line, if I may judge from certain additions, I learn have been made to the Churches since my leaving.

(knaves)

Several reverend knaves came over the mountains a year since to this land, but after being guilty of so much profanity, immorality and rascality, along the road as well as here, they have not had the hardihood to attempt preaching since. Some from around the Horn tried it awhile, but falling from grace have ceased to hold forth. — O! cant! cant! cant! hypocracy, humbuggery, charlatanism and demagogueism The world is ruled through these! When shall truth dawn upon its benighted surface! How long before those main instruments for keeping ~~the world in~~ mankind in ignorance and darkness, — the altars erected to "Unknown Gods", whom so many blind and infatuated

(Couldnt concentrate & squeeze my ideas into 2 sheets)

of Oregon, or rather a sheep grazier of California, for a better match far, she has it in her power to make; as the last I heard of her a year since, she was the courted, toasted and admired belle and beauty of our federal city. Of course I never was in love with her, as she was too young for that when I left.

And lastly my reason for declining; is that I have a task of high importance before me this winter and perhaps for a year or two on, that ought, must and shall be performed. 'Twas to leave me untrammeled and free from any charge or suspicion of prejudice and being swayed by personal feelings and interests in the second chapter of this task, — that caused me to decline acceding to the wishes of the first Naval Commander at this place, in filling the office of Chief Magistrate or Primary judge of San Francisco last fall, and also, subsequently, to refuse the intended nomination of the citizens of the town to the Governor, for appointment as a member of the council, which was then in contemplation of being formed.

Respects to Capt Applegate, when you see him, with whom, I learn you sojourned during the last weeping of your heavens.

3 I should like Prigg to see this letter; send it to him.

I remain
Your friendly fellow mortal
in this fleeting shortlived stage of
our existance

C. E. Pickett